

SURF

SURF Awards

2013

Awards



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SURF : sharing experience : shaping practice : celebrating success

The SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration 2013



The SURF Awards are delivered in partnership with the Scottish Government with additional support from Creative Scotland and Architecture + Design Scotland

“This is the 10th anniversary of the SURF Awards, which recognises and celebrates the achievements of groups across Scotland who have made their own unique contribution to improving their community. The SURF Awards highlights these achievements not only for the impact they make in their own communities, but also for the learning and inspiration they provide for all of us. SURF is proud to be involved with all the winners and runners up over the past ten years.”



Brian MacDonald,
Chair, SURF

The 2013 SURF Awards



2013 is the tenth year that SURF and the Scottish Government have worked in partnership to highlight, celebrate and share some of the best examples of efforts to regenerate disadvantaged communities throughout Scotland.

This publication profiles the 15 initiatives that were short-listed for the 2013 SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration.

We hope the examples of innovation, dedication and effectiveness presented here provide encouragement and inspiration for all who continue to work or volunteer in support of regeneration activities across the country in what continues to be a highly challenging economic context.

Scales of Achievement

The 2013 SURF Awards features several themed categories to reflect the full range of regeneration activity, from relatively modest community-run processes to large-scale infrastructure projects.

The five categories were:

- Town Centre Regeneration
- Support to Work
- Infrastructure and Social Benefits
- Creative Regeneration
- Community Led Regeneration

Over 50 project applications were considered by our 21-member independent judging panel over an intensive two-month process of assessments and visits. Working in category teams, the judges were tasked with narrowing down applicants to three short-listed initiatives per category and then ultimately selecting just one winner.

Themes and Trends

Many of this year's winning and shortlisted projects successfully transformed neglected local assets into a driving force for sustainable social and economic regeneration.

For example: in the small town of Stromness in Orkney, a townscape heritage initiative brought decades-long abandoned properties back into community and business use (see p4); in Oban, a community campaign to save the local cinema became a focal point for action (see p12); and in post-industrial Govan in Glasgow, vacant shop units have become an arts hub, facilitating myriad creative and community activities (see p10).

This year's winners also show that local assets go far beyond physical buildings – such as the often under-appreciated value of those with additional support needs to the economy (see Project SEARCH, p6), and the potential of wind power to contribute greatly to wider ambitions for sustainable community development (see Orkney Micro-Renewables, p8).

On pages 16-17, you can also find out about last year's five category winners and how they have got on since receiving their SURF Awards certificate in 2012.

A Collaborative Effort

The SURF Awards, like many of the projects highlighted in this publication, is made possible only with the support of a number of dedicated partners.

SURF is particularly grateful for the support of the Scottish Government, which has been our key SURF Awards partner since 2003. On pages 18-19, you can read about what SURF and the Scottish Government are doing to support improved policy and practice in community regeneration in Scotland.

This year we were delighted to receive additional formal support from Creative Scotland, sponsor of the Creative Regeneration award, and from Architecture + Design Scotland, sponsor of the Town Centre Regeneration category.

We are also highly appreciative of the efforts of our judging panel, who give their time freely to travel the length of Scotland and visit all of the shortlisted projects. Our panel is made up of representatives of national regeneration-related organisations and community groups; you can find out who they are on p15.

Lastly, SURF could not function as Scotland's independent regeneration network without the active support, knowledge and experience of our 250+ member organisations: especially our 13 key delivery partners, who are listed on p20.

If you would like to know about the SURF Awards, please visit the dedicated section of our website:

www.scotregen.co.uk/surf-awards

Results

Contents & Category Results

Town Centre Regeneration

Purpose: To highlight and reward good practice in improving a town centre through regeneration activity. This category is supported by Architecture + Design Scotland.

Winner:
Stromness Townscape Heritage Initiative – page 4

Also shortlisted: Campbeltown CHORD Project; The Birks Cinema Revival, Aberfeldy – page 5



Creative Regeneration

Purpose: To reward best practice in placing the arts and creativity at the heart of community regeneration efforts. This category is supported by Creative Scotland.

Winner: The Portal, Govan, Glasgow – page 10

Also shortlisted: Big Noise Raploch, Stirling; “We Are Here” Public Art Project in Roanheads, Peterhead – page 11



Support to Work

Purpose: To highlight and reward good practice in the provision of employability services for people with additional support needs. This category is supported by the Scottish Government’s Employability Team.

Winner: Project SEARCH Scotland – page 6

Also shortlisted: Carishea Employability Mentoring Programme, Inverclyde; North East Sensory Services – page 7



Community Led Regeneration

Purpose: To reward best practice in the involvement of communities in leading regeneration strategies and processes.

Winner: Oban Phoenix Cinema – page 12

Also shortlisted: Restoration of St Brides Community Centre in Douglas, South Lanarkshire; ‘Building Our Future’ initiative in Neilston, East Renfrewshire – page 13



Infrastructure and Social Benefits

Purpose: To reward best practice in achieving community regeneration outcomes from investments in infrastructure.

Winner: Orkney Micro-Renewables Community Interest Company – page 8

Also shortlisted: Corkerhill Pitches, Glasgow; Dundee Central Waterfront – page 9



Town Centre Regeneration

Winner

Stromness Townscape Heritage Initiative

What is the aim of the project?

To support the long-term economic viability and sustainability of a town centre through investment in its built environment and heritage.

Where is it taking place?

In the small town of Stromness on mainland Orkney.

What has been achieved?

Like many remote Scottish towns, Stromness has suffered from a recent history of economic decline. For decades, many private properties were left vacant. In 2007, a planning meeting highlighted the depth of aspiration within the local community to address this problem by bringing the vacant properties back into use, as residential homes as well as commercial and retail premises in the town centre.

Since then, the project has delivered more than £6m of public and private investment in the town's historic fabric. 50 properties have been awarded grants to facilitate architectural restoration and historically appropriate repairs, much of which has been carried out by local contractors.



Streets were repaved with stone from original source

New live and work spaces have been created in the town centre, where existing business premises have also been upgraded. The investments have also increased Stromness tourism through the provision of tour guides, audio tours and a community website.

This has all resulted in the revitalisation of Stromness, as demonstrated by an enhanced built environment, a much improved sense of pride of place among local residents, and success in connecting the built heritage with a diverse variety of cultural, commercial, educational and recreational opportunities.

Who is running it?

The project is managed by a Townscape Heritage Initiative team, and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and other partners, including Historic Scotland and Orkney Islands Council.



A play shelter was restored in the town's park



Stromness Hotel - historic, before & after

It will run for five years to June 2014.

Local partners include Stromness Community Council, Stromness Business Forum, Visit Orkney, Orkney College, and Orkney Arts Forum.



Improving local construction skills

Why did the judging panel like it?

The SURF Awards judges valued the improvements made to the streetscape of Stromness' historic town centre, and its success in bringing derelict and empty buildings back into use. Over a relatively short period of time, the partnership running the project has achieved a huge amount, restoring properties, improving shops, providing premises for new businesses and helping to improve what existing amenities offer.

The judges were particularly impressed by the extensive nature of the initial community consultation, by the holistic approach to regeneration that has resulted in a wide range of projects being developed, and by the lasting relationships built amongst key partners, including local schools, businesses, the college and voluntary groups. There was a sense not only of genuine change, but that these relationships would continue to thrive long after the project concludes in 2014.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.orkney.gov.uk/Service-Directory/S/Stromness-THI.htm

Contact: Miriam Frier, Stromness THI Strategic Project Officer, Orkney Islands Council; 01856 852 030, miriam.frier@orkney.gov.uk.



Shortlisted

The Birks Cinema Revival

What is the aim of the project?

A group of local people came together to reopen a cinema that closed in 1982 with a wider goal of reviving a town square.

Where is it taking place?

In the town of Aberfeldy, in Perth & Kinross.

What has been achieved?

Since 2006, a "Friends of the Birks Cinema" local group have been engaging with local stakeholders, partners and potential funders with a view to refurbishing and reopening the cinema. They achieved their goal in April 2013, and the new 104 seat 3D-compatible cinema and café now provides a focal point for Aberfeldy town square. Since the arrival of the cinema, new businesses and an outdoor market have also been established in the formerly derelict square.



Who is running it?

The £1.3m renovation project was led by Friends of The Birks Cinema, and supported by local contractors and businesses.

Why did the judging panel like it?

Volunteers from the community had shown impressive commitment, resourcefulness and resilience to source the funding to bring the art deco cinema back into use, providing a useful resource for Aberfeldy and the surrounding area. An impressive business plan had been developed following extensive market research. The judges saw that the project has the potential to have further positive influence on the town centre, and the project team has an impressive range of skills that could be applied to other community led projects in Aberfeldy.



Campbeltown CHORD Initiative

What is the aim of the project?

To establish an ambitious holistic programme that supports the regeneration and economic development of a town centre and waterfront.

Where is it taking place?

In the town of Campbeltown in Argyll.



What has been achieved?

The project has invested £6.5m in the town in three broad initiatives, including the five-year Campbeltown Townscape Heritage Initiative and the Kinloch Road housing and regeneration programme. The works being done have improved the character and appearance of the waterfront, town centre and gateway. This has led to the creation of new employment opportunities, a higher supply of affordable housing, increased visitor numbers and the possibility of further inward investment.

Who is running it?

Led by Argyll & Bute Council, various steering groups for each of the projects were formed. The steering groups feature a wide range of stakeholders including Council representatives, community group members, and private sector partners. Additional project partners are Argyll Community Housing Association, the Scottish Government and Scottish Water.



Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges valued the ambition and scale of the economic regeneration work being undertaken to address decline in Campbeltown by building on the town's strengths. They identified a number of positive impacts in the town centre, including improvements to shops and buildings, enhanced facilities for visiting sailors and a high quality affordable housing scheme. The commitment of staff involved in the project was impressive, and a clear reason for the success of the initiative.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.birkscinemafriends.org.uk

Contact: Terry Wisdom, Treasurer, Friends of The Birks Cinema.

Tel: 01887 830 742, treasurer.fobc@unicomemail.co.uk.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/content/chord-town-centre-regeneration-projects

Contact: James Lafferty, Project Officer, Argyll and Bute Council:
01586 559 048, james.lafferty@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

Support to Work

Winner

Project SEARCH Scotland

What is the aim of the project?

Project SEARCH is an employment-focused education initiative designed to help people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities into competitive employment.

Where is it taking place?

The programme operates from a number of sites across Scotland, including ones in Aberdeen, East Ayrshire, Glasgow, and North Lanarkshire. A further three delivery locations are planned for 2014.

What has been achieved?

Project SEARCH was originally devised at Cincinnati Children's Hospital in the USA, where it successfully married the need to reduce high staff turnover levels for the hospital's relatively routine – yet complex – jobs with frequent requests from disability organisations to provide supported employment opportunities. It quickly led to many of the students becoming valued long-term employees of the hospital.

In transferring this model to Scotland over the last three years, the project partnership provides 800-hour employer placements to young people with additional support needs

over an academic term. Students are exposed to a real workplace and participate in monthly progress meetings to define their career goal and plan necessary steps to achieve it.

The project has made significant advancements in the employment prospects of young people with learning disabilities in Scotland. It is completely employment-focused, to the extent that students who



Project SEARCH student Jonathan Donnelly



A team support session

finish the programme and join apprenticeship programmes or enter further education are not measured as a positive outcome. Internationally, Project SEARCH achieves an average of 65% positive outcomes; the current rate for Scotland is 70%.

As well as this level of success in securing full-time paid employment, Social Return on Investment and Demonstrating Value evaluations have demonstrated additional positive outcomes for project participants, their families and employers.

Who is running it?

Project SEARCH Scotland is led by the Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability (SCLD) in partnership with Scottish local authorities, colleges, businesses, health boards and the UK Government Department for Work and Pensions.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were both impressed and humbled by the project's work with extremely marginalised groups and the care and attention that goes into the employability support model it provides every day through intensive one-to-one and team-based support linked to work experience. The judges saw evidence of strong commitment to the delivery of the project from a wide range of project partners, and its success in helping to challenge perceptions in some quarters about the capacity of individuals with learning disabilities to excel in the workplace.

The panel were further impressed by the project's understanding of the support needs of the participants and its work in providing employers with ongoing support, close to hand, to ensure challenges and opportunities are tackled efficiently and effectively. They also saw a great deal of value in the transferrable nature of the project's approach and were unanimous in confirming Project SEARCH as the 2013 SURF Awards 'Support to Work' category winner.



Work experience in Aberdeen

Where can I find out more?

Web: <http://www.sclld.org.uk/sclld-projects/project-search>

Contact: Maura Lynch, Depute Chief Executive,
SCLD: 0141 559 5720, maura.l@sclld.co.uk



Shortlisted

Carishea Employability Mentoring Programme

What is the aim of the project?

To enable socially excluded men, as they transition from either a local residential substance abuse rehabilitation centre or prison, to be full members of society through a holistic employability programme.

Where is it taking place?

The initiative is based in Greenock, Inverclyde.

What has been achieved?

Former substance abusers begin collaborating with Carishea six months prior to the end of their rehabilitation stay, and receive from the project help and advice in housing, budgeting, training, job assessment, skills development and active employment in a small business.



Through the programme, each participant is trained in making handcrafted luxurious shea butter skincare products. The shea butter is provided by a social initiative in Ghana, and processed in a factory in Greenock. Profits from sold carishea products are returned to Ghana in aid and development funding. Since 2011, 19 men have entered the programme, and seven have progressed to regular employment.

Who is running it?

The project is run by Trade Right International Community Interest Company. Collaborative partners include The Haven Rehabilitation Centre and the Scottish Prison Service.



Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were impressed by the commitment of the staff and project participants, and the drive to make this a self sustaining social enterprise, developing a demand for the product whilst providing support and employment for marginalised individuals who need it. The project builds confidence and self esteem and has clear success in supporting the young men who complete the programme into regular employment.

North East Sensory Services

What is the aim of the project?

To promote social inclusion and independence for, and provide employability support services to, people with a sensory (sight and/or hearing) loss.

Where is it taking place?

The project is based in Aberdeen and provides services across north east Scotland, including Aberdeenshire, Angus and Dundee.



What has been achieved?

North East Sensory Services is the only fully integrated joint sensory service in Scotland, and its specialist support service enables people to access and sustain relevant employment, education and/or training opportunities. The priority outcome is to get people into work and, by so doing, support their re-introduction to community participation.

For the 2013/14 financial year, the project had 43 people engaged in the employment service, with eight service users progressing into work, 19 being helped to retain existing employment, and 16 moving into education and training.



Who is running it?

North East Sensory Services operates as a charity, and collaborates with a number of partners including Jobcentre Plus, Aberdeen City Council, and local schools.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The project provides a high quality of tailored support to people who have sensory challenges and are often subject to myths and misunderstandings in wider society, including employers. The judges were impressed by the person-centred support the project provides, and its strong links with local employers and other partners.

The judges saw that the project has received excellent feedback from both employers and the individuals that are seeking an opportunity to progress.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.carishea.com/socialbusiness.html

Contact: Trevor Gregory, CEO, Trade Right International CIC:
01475 786 059, trev@traderightinternational.com.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.nesensoryservices.org

Contact: Andrew Lawtie, Fundraising and Resources Officer,
North East Sensory Services: 01224 627 646,
andrew.lawtie@nesensoryservices.org.

Infrastructure and Social Benefits

Winner

Orkney Micro-Renewables Community Interest Company

What is the aim of the project?

To provide sustainable employment, education and training around environmentally sustainable renewable energy infrastructure projects that respond directly to local community needs.

Where is it taking place?

The project is based in the remote and economically disadvantaged island of Eday, and also serves other Orkney islands.

What has been achieved?

In 2011, a group of Eday residents decided to work together and enter the renewable energy market as a basis for providing social and economic regeneration outcomes for the island. Starting with a small £15k start-up fund contributed by local islanders, and using the Eday Community Development Plan as a reference point for intended activities, they started to support the installation of advanced small wind turbines (5kW & 10kW) in local households, farms and businesses.



Five local residents direct the project



Wind turbine installation

the local community. It has received funding and support from Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Business Gateway, Orkney Islands Council, Social Investment Scotland and Evance Wind Turbines.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were highly impressed with what has been achieved by Orkney Micro Renewables over such a short space of time and from only a modest initial investment. The judges heard directly from local people on how they had benefited, in particular through the creation of employment opportunities and the eradication of fuel poverty for many in the community.

Importantly, the judges were impressed with the project's plans to diversify into other areas to further benefit the island. The inspirational work has enabled the communities of Eday to be powered entirely by renewable energy generation, with the distinct possibility of replicating the original concept in other geographies. The panel were pleased to confirm its selection as winning project for the Infrastructure & Social Benefits category.



The project has installed turbines across Orkney



Quarryhouse, Eday

The project has grown exponentially and now has an annual turnover of £2.4m, with 92 wind turbines installed across Orkney. In addition to a significant contribution to CO2 emissions and 2020 renewable energy targets, the initiative's green infrastructure has significantly reduced fuel poverty. Some island residents now receive free electricity in exchange for hosting a turbine on their land.

The project has created six full-time jobs, has delivered considerable cost savings for Orkney businesses, and generates 0.5mW of renewable electricity for domestic users. All of Eday's energy needs are now served 100% by the wind turbines. By March 2014 the aim is to have installed a total of 130 wind turbines, each with a servicing life of 20 years.

Who is running it?

Orkney Micro Renewables Community Interest Company was set up by five residents on Eday in 2011 and operates as a social enterprise. The initial £15k to start the venture was provided by investors from

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.orkneymicrorenewables.com

Contact: Kate Townsend, Director, Orkney Micro Renewables
CIC: 01857 622 233, kate@orkneymicro-renewables.co.uk.

Shortlisted



Corkerhill Pitches

What is the aim of the project?

To transform a long-derelict red blaze football pitch into a state of the art modern astroturf pitch open and accessible to the whole community.

Where is it taking place?

The pitch is located in the Corkerhill neighbourhood in Glasgow's south side.

What has been achieved?

The neglected former pitch was subject to frequent dog fouling and anti-social behaviour.

Working with Glasgow Housing Association, Pollok United Soccer Academy – 45 local parents who give their time to football coaching for 4-16 year olds – initiated the development of a new pitch with flood lighting, a perimeter fence, and changing & storage facilities.



The new pitch delivers coaching activities 28 hours a week, and for the remainder is available at no cost to local schools, youth clubs, disability groups, and the general public. In addition to providing physical activity, volunteering, social and after-school opportunities, the project has improved the perception of the community as a place to live.

Who is running it?

Pollok United Soccer Academy manage the facility. Glasgow Housing Association helped bring together a variety of partners – including Glasgow City Council, the Scottish Government and sportscotland – to deliver the redevelopment.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges noted the extensive impact of turning a derelict football pitch into Corkerhill's 'Field of Dreams'. The new pitch has clearly contributed to the regeneration of the area. The judges noted that it is not just children who benefit from a new place to kick a ball, but the mums and dads and the wider community too, compounded by increased confidence and the prospect of healthier and fitter lifestyles.

Dundee Central Waterfront

What is the aim of the project?

An ambitious long term project that aims to create a new central business district in Dundee, reconnecting the existing city centre with the Waterfront.



What has been achieved?

Dundee's key natural asset, the River Tay, is cut off from the nearby city centre by a range of barriers including dual carriageways and outmoded buildings. In the last ten years, physical works to reconstruct Dundee Central Waterfront have been ongoing, such as the demolition and reconstruction of the northern Tay Road Bridge ramps and the replacement of a weak road bridge near Dundee Railway Station, with contracts featuring voluntary community benefits requirements to provide local employment opportunities.

The social and economic benefits derived from the investments to date also extend to 14 new-start job opportunities for unemployed people, a £2m spend in the local economy through the recruitment of local businesses, and construction skills training for young people keen to work in the industry.

Who is running it?

The project is led by Dundee City Council, with development contractors including Sir Robert McAlpine. Additional partners are Discover Opportunities, Dundee Employability Partnership and JobCentre Plus.



Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges recognised Dundee Central Waterfront as an exceptional project, having an impact across Dundee and the surrounding area, with multiple benefits to local people in terms of employment and training opportunities. They saw that community benefit outcomes are not something that a single Council department is trying to achieve, but the whole local authority, and with all relevant procurement contracts. As well as the scale and ambition of the remarkable regeneration work, the judges were impressed with the belief behind it.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.pitchero.com/clubs/pollokunitedsocceracademy/

Contact: Andy Elliott, Vice Chair, Pollok United Soccer Academy: andy.elliott@gha.org.uk

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.dundeewaterfront.com

Contact: Roger Grace, Dundee Central Waterfront Team Leader, Dundee City Council: 01382 434 000, roger.grace@dundeecity.gov.uk

Creative Regeneration

Winner

The Portal, Govan

What is the aim of the project?

To initiate a creative regeneration process by using the talents of local people to raise aspirations, create new opportunities and bring vibrancy to a disadvantaged post-industrial city geography.



A 'Bead N Blether' session

Where is it taking place?

The Portal is a community arts hub in the centre of the Govan area of Glasgow.



Before the renovation

Exterior view

What has been achieved?

The need for a local arts hub evolved from the 2003-06 'Govan Gathering Light' project, which brought together artists, filmmakers and community groups to explore the potential for Govan's disused spaces. Through a partnership process, a number of disused shops that had been vacant for almost 20 years were renovated and brought back into use as The Portal, which opened at the end of 2007.

The Portal is home to a 'Making Art Matter' programme, an artists in residence studio, Sunny Govan Community Radio, an exhibition gallery and a meeting/workshop space. It provides a wide range of opportunities for hundreds of local people aged from 5 to 95 to develop their potential through creative activity.

A recent evaluation of The Portal demonstrated that project participants now felt safer in their community and although there are still issues to be resolved with regard to youth disorder, territorialism in the area dropped significantly within the first few years of running youth projects. 83% of those taking part in the Making Art Matter programme reported improvements in personal confidence, while 70% said they had developed new friends and connections.

Who is running it?

The Portal is managed by a charity, Plantation Productions. The shops were renovated in partnership with Govan Housing Association and Govan Initiative (a predecessor of Jobs & Business Glasgow) as part of the Central Govan Action Plan. The Portal's projects are developed in partnership with multiple agencies, including Youth Scotland and Glasgow Life.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges witnessed and were impressed with the joint vision and strong partnership working across all aspects of the project, which has successfully transformed derelict buildings into creative spaces that respond to the heritage of Govan. The Portal has enabled local groups to establish creative partnerships not just in Govan, but with other communities and organisations from across Glasgow



Govan Allsorts Choir

The project was selected as the winner because of the substantial involvement and drive from local people in creating a vibrant community focal point, and its considerable success in supporting the establishment and sustainability of new voluntary arts groups.

Where can I find out more?

Web: plantation.org.uk/about/the-portal/

Contact: Moya Crowley, Project Manager, Plantation Productions: 0141 445 1666, moya@plantation.org.uk



Shortlisted

Big Noise Raploch

What is the aim of the project?

To use music-making as a basis for social transformation, enhancing confidence, teamwork, pride and aspiration in the children participating and across a wider community.

Where is it taking place?

In the Raploch community in Stirling.

What has been achieved?

Launched in 2008, and based on the Venezuelan El Sistema programme, the Big Noise Raploch orchestra now engages over 450 children, from babies to early teenagers. This is primarily delivered three times a week through after-school clubs. Beyond core activity there are also trips to concerts, residential schools and other activities.

An independent evaluation of Big Noise Raploch found evidence that it is having a positive impact on the childrens' personal and social development. A survey of parents found 100% thought their children were more confident, 93% thought their children were happier, 79% thought they were more willing to concentrate and 43% thought they behaved better.



Who is running it?

The project is run by Sistema Scotland in partnership with Stirling Council. Drake Music, the Leith Agency and BBC Scotland have also contributed resources.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges witnessed and were impressed with the vision and ambition instilled within the project in terms of reach, scale and quality, and its direct approach in addressing a clear need through immersed engagement of the target community. The judges also liked the engagement of the wider community through an adults orchestra and a 'take a musician home for tea' scheme. The initiative has helped create a real sense of togetherness in Raploch.

Roanheads: We Are Here

What is the aim of the project?

To improve the local environment of a new housing development by creating and installing high quality art works.

Where is it taking place?

The housing development is located in the Roanheads area of Peterhead, Aberdeenshire.

What has been achieved?

The project's lead and sessional artists held a series of workshops and activities with local community members that resulted in the production of art works throughout the new development. The art works created include: a community banner; over 20 bronze plaques; a colourful wall mural; three short films; a dedicated website; and 17 oak canisters containing information about Peterhead.



The community were actively involved in developing We Are Here, which has enhanced community cohesion as well as the physical environment. Community members have developed their own activities on the back of the initiative, including a pipe band and a popular Facebook page.



Who is running it?

Tenants First Housing Co-operative developed the project in close partnership with the local community. Additional support has been provided by, among others, Aberdeenshire Council, The Princes Trust and Peterhead Port Authority.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were particularly impressed with the creative, from-the-ground-up approach to engage the local community and encourage it to reflect on how it sees itself, which led to the statement: "WE ARE HERE". The project has clearly produced increased community confidence, and new community led activities have emerged as a result.

Where can I find out more?

Web: <http://makeabignoise.org.uk/big-noise-raploch/>

Contact: George Anderson, Communications Manager, Sistema Scotland: 01786 462 923, george.anderson@sistemascotland.org.uk.

Where can I find out more?

Web: <http://www.we-are-here.org.uk/>

Contact: Eleanor McEwan, Community Development Manager, Tenant's First Housing Co-operative: 01224 628 400, eleanor.mcewan@sanctuary-housing.co.uk.

Community Led Regeneration

Winner

Oban Phoenix Cinema

What is the aim of the project?

To respond to a local 'save our cinema' campaign by reopening a popular and unique cultural venue as a community-run facility.

Where is it taking place?

Oban Phoenix Cinema is located in central Oban and serves the wider north Argyll & Bute region.

What has been achieved?

The cinema was purchased by the community in 2011 after a local campaign to save the building, which closed the previous year, gained extensive support from the local community and further afield – including Dame Judi Dench and Robbie Coltrane. Those in Oban, Lorne and nearby islands faced major challenges in accessing mainstream cultural activities, and with the cinema closed, a 200 mile round trip was required to the nearest alternative in Glasgow or Inverness.



The cinema reopened in 2012

The cinema reopened in August 2012 as a community-run social enterprise offering a high-class cinema experience. In its first year, attendances have exceeded 50,000 and the cinema is among the highest average attendance as a proportion of capacity across the



A community open day

UK. With £400k investment in the last two years, the turnover for year one an impressive £139k, with a surplus of £12k. It also employs nine people and has a bank of 80 local volunteers.

On top of being a successful cinema and contributing to the town's economic development and tourism, the initiative has a strong social focus. There has been particular success in responding to wider community needs by running a youth volunteering programme and providing arts & social opportunities for older people.



Visiting the projector room

Who is running it?

A committee of volunteers manage the cinema, which was purchased on behalf of the community with the assistance of loan finance from Social Investment Scotland, a grant from Highlands & Islands Enterprise and significant community fundraising.

Everybody in the community is allowed to be a member of the social enterprise. There are currently 81 members, who democratically appoint Directors at the AGM.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were impressed with the dedication of the core community group, which used its mixed skills base to garner support for the re-birth of the cinema using a mixed funding package. They were clear that the cinema makes a considerable contribution to joint efforts to help make Oban a more attractive place to live in and to visit. The range of services offered by the venue is substantial, and provides much-needed support networks for local residents.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.obanphoenix.com

Contact: Eleanor MacKinnon, Manager, Oban Phoenix Cinema: 01631 562 905, admin@obanphoenix.com.

Shortlisted



Douglas St Brides Community Centre Restoration

What is the aim of the project?

To provide a village and a surrounding area with a welcoming, vibrant, adaptable and sustainable community space through the redevelopment of an existing historic building.

Where is it taking place?

In the village of Douglas in South Lanarkshire.

What has been achieved?

Over a period of seven years, community volunteers gained ownership of the village's St Brides building, which was constructed as a school in 1876 and later served as a church hall. They also secured funding of £1.2m to oversee its redevelopment, recruit staff and put in place robust systems and practices to ensure long term viability. The refurbishment work was completed in December 2011.



The new community centre's two central benefits are access to health and educational opportunities that would have been otherwise unavailable to the many village residents on low incomes and with no car. These services include a popular slimming club and gym, an IT skills course and free wi-fi to support job searches.

Who is running it?

The project is managed by Douglas St Brides Community Group. Funders include The Big Lottery Fund in Scotland, South Lanarkshire Council, and The Robertson Trust.



Why did the judging panel like it?

This project attracted the judges' attention because of the strong local control of the project and the outputs that have been achieved in such a short period of time. This is a stable, well-run project that has helped to satisfy a range of needs in a community that has suffered both historically and in more recent times through job losses and de-population.

Neilston: Building Our Future

What is the aim of the project?

To regenerate a village by bringing together local residents, businesses, town planners, architects and local authority officials in a series of conversations and investigations to formulate and deliver a vision for its future.



Where is it taking place?

The village of Neilston in East Renfrewshire.

What has been achieved?

Having developed a clear vision as a socially cohesive, sustainable and economically robust 21st century village, Neilston Development Trust has been tasked with coordinating a number of projects to make this a reality. So far, they have made two key community led initiatives come to fruition: The Bank, a community owned 'living room' in the heart of the village, and Neilston Community Windfarm, which provides long-term financial resources to support further 'Building Our Future' projects.

These initiatives have resulted in a more engaged community, a re-animated village centre, a re-energised village centre, greater learning and leisure opportunities, and a livelier local 'scene' with community events and activities.



Who is running it?

Neilston Development Trust, which has three staff, a board comprising ten local residents, and a membership of 190 local people.

Why did the judging panel like it?

The judges were interested in this project because of its scope – from a café/garden hub for the community to investment in a significant wind-farm project. Neilston Development Trust has clearly embraced the whole community in the discussion and delivery of an agreed vision for the village. The Trust is now progressing a number of further projects as part of the process, and through its renewables investments it will secure additional cash resources for the delivery process.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.stbridescentre.co.uk

Contact: John Gold, Secretary, Douglas St Brides Community Group: 01555 851 959, nhoj_dlog@btinternet.com.

Where can I find out more?

Web: www.neilstontrust.co.uk

Contact Pauline Gallacher, Project Director (voluntary), Neilston Development Trust: 0141 561 1201. pauline.gallacher@neilstontrust.co.uk.

SURF Awards

Recognising good practice
across the country



“I’ve been involved in judging the SURF Awards over the past four years, and it has been an enjoyable and rewarding experience. The quality of the projects always impresses me, and it’s great to get out and see some of the great work being undertaken in communities across Scotland. The only tricky bit is selecting a winner from so many excellent projects.”



David Stewart,
Policy Manager,
Scottish Federation of
Housing Associations

Independent judging panel

The judging panel for the 2013 SURF Awards comprised 14 representatives of national regeneration-related bodies and seven community group volunteers. Each judge gave their time freely to review, shortlist, visit and agree category winners from over 50 project applications.

The 2013 SURF Awards judging panel members are listed below. SURF is grateful to all of them and their originations for their greatly appreciated essential contribution.

Town Centre Regeneration category

Von Jackson (Community Volunteer)
Andy Kennedy (Association of Town & City Centre Management)
Diarmaid Lawlor (Architecture + Design Scotland)
David Stewart (Scottish Federation of Housing Associations)

Support to Work category

Julie-Ann Bilotti (Scottish Government)
Alison Caldicott (Scottish Government)
Helen Keenan (Princes Trust)
Mike O'Donnell (Skills Development Scotland)
Ronnie Rodden (Community Volunteer)

Infrastructure & Social Benefits category

David Allan (Scottish Community Development Centre)
Jack Ferguson (Community Volunteer)
Kevin MacDonald (Highlands & Islands Enterprise)
Murdo MacPherson (Scottish Government)

Creative Regeneration category

Raymond Black (Creative Scotland)
Emilie Devlin (Community Volunteer)
Diane Gray (Heritage Lottery Fund)
Jemma Neville (Voluntary Arts Scotland)

Community Led Regeneration category

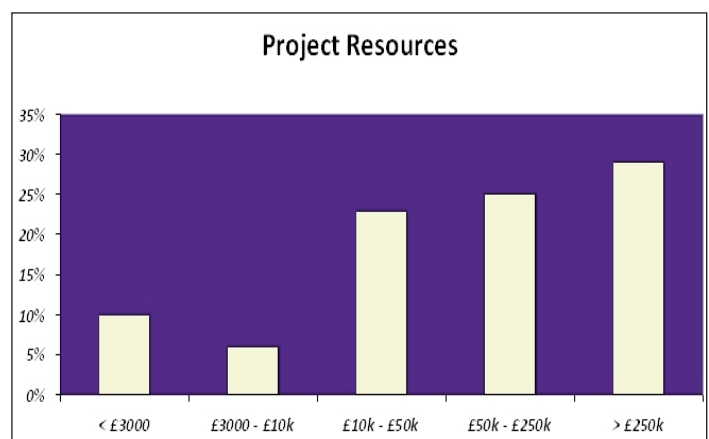
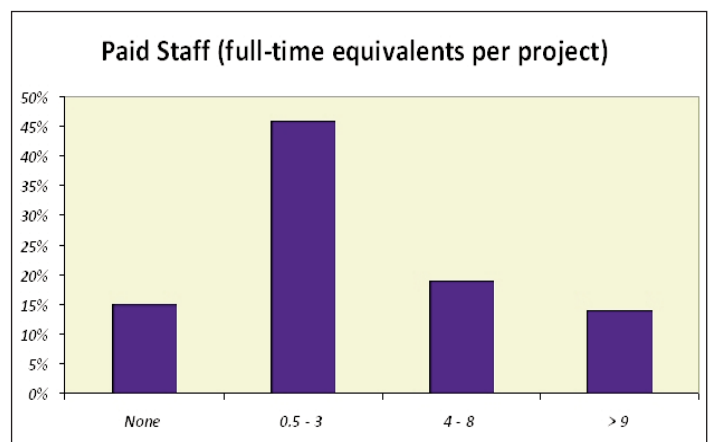
Alice Connelly (Community Volunteer)
Robert McDowall (Lintel Trust)
Karen McGregor (Community Volunteer)
Tam Munro (Community Volunteer)

2013 SURF Awards Nominees

51 community regeneration initiatives were nominated for a SURF Award in 2013.

From Dumfries to Shetland, they spanned the length of the country, and also represented a wide cross-sector spread across initiatives led by public, private, voluntary and community organisations.

As the following graphs demonstrate, a great deal of diversity was also evident in the scale and resources of the nominated projects.



SURF Awards...

Each December, some of the best regeneration projects in the country get a well-earned boost by receiving a SURF Award. But what happens next? We asked each of the 2012 category winners for an update. Here are their stories.

2012 'Community Led Regeneration' category winner: Pennyburn Regeneration Youth Development Enterprise (PRYDE)

"The immediate impact of winning the SURF Award was one of immense pride and positive reinforcement. It shows not only that others believe that we are worthy of an award but that PRYDE does 'exactly what it says on the tin'. National recognition enabled us to reflect and celebrate as a company. The free external consultancy support provided by the SURF Awards process enabled us to reflect on our progress to date in transforming a disused pub into 'The Playz', an enterprising community hub, and consider the journey still to take place in the wider regeneration of the Kilwinning community we aspire to serve.



"In 2013, there has been further capital development internally with the installation of a high-tech movable glass partition wall, enabling the creation of an office space and the establishment of a health & wellbeing suite. As an evolving social enterprise, these developments further enhance our sustainability strategy. We have improved our PR activities, and now other social enterprises have visit and commission us to assist with their own developments. A ministerial visit also enabled us to talk strategically about the Community Empowerment & Renewal Bill and its potential impact around community asset transfer."

Theresa Potter, 'The Playz' Project Manager.
Web: <http://www.theplayz.org.uk>
Tel: 01294 539 717

2012 'Sustainable Place' category winner: Scapa Flow Landscape Partnership Scheme

"2013 marked the end of the three year delivery phase of the Scapa Flow Landscape Partnership Scheme. The scheme has brought about lasting benefits for the built, cultural and natural heritage of Scapa Flow and has helped to build the capacity of

local organisations and the community to deliver further projects in future. Winning the SURF Award in 2012 was a welcome acknowledgement of what the scheme has achieved and the success of this genuine partnership between government, community and business.

"The lasting legacy and momentum generated by the Scapa Flow scheme has provided inspiration by demonstrating what can be achieved. Its success has encouraged local partners to take initial steps to develop a future Landscape Partnership Scheme for the North Isles of Orkney. The SURF Award was a ringing endorsement of the scheme's success, which has helped to raise its profile both locally and nationally. We are confident that it will play a part in building support for the development of further Orkney projects in the near future."

James Green, Planner, Orkney Islands Council.
Web: <http://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/scapaflow>
Tel: 01856 873 535



2012 'Infrastructure & Regeneration' category winner: Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust

"On hearing of our winning the SURF Award in 2012, as a Trust we were gratified to be recognised by our peers and delighted to accept the award on behalf of our community. We appreciated the invitation to present at a SURF Awards workshop event earlier in 2013 and it encouraged us to continue, especially when it showed that what we were doing was being watched and acted upon by other communities.

"2013 has seen the Trust move forwards with our housing improvement programme, completing



Sustaining success

another three properties and planning ahead for the final nine. These properties offer the greatest challenge – they are old, predominately agricultural buildings – and we will need all our guile, experience and assistance from friends and colleagues to see it through. We have managed to erect and commission a fourth wind turbine to complement the three ‘Dancing Ladies’ that have contributed so much to our communities’ income. We have also appointed a new Chief Executive and a new Head Gardener this year. The Trust thanks SURF for its support and looks forward to a positive future.”

*Andy Oliver, Director, Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust.
Web: <http://www.gigha.org.uk> Tel: 01583 505 390*

2012 ‘Creative Regeneration’ category winner: Kirkton Woodland and Heritage Group

“Winning the SURF Award was a great endorsement. It gave us a very helpful boost forward, extra confidence in our approach and methodology, and helped keep the momentum and energy levels up. Our Board and volunteers were able to see the value of all their hard work in a wider context. Since receiving the Award, we have gone on to develop our existing community hub in Wester Ross, setting up a gallery to showcase local artists’ and craftmakers’ work. This is helping people to make the transition from hobbies to small businesses.



“We have also combined the gallery with a visitor information point, in partnership with VisitScotland, to draw more trade into the area in general. In the winter months we are making best use of the building by offering training workshops. We are currently working with partners to draw up a development plan to complete the final phase of the Smithy Hub development, which includes the refurbishing of a 19th century blacksmiths workshop to provide a heritage, cultural and environmental interpretation centre.

“Whilst our focus at the moment is in providing employment and training opportunities, equally important is our plan to purchase a local 93 hectare woodland as a community asset.”

*Kristine MacKenzie, Development Officer,
Kirkton Woodland & Heritage Group.
Web: <http://kirktonwoodlands.wordpress.com> Tel: 01520 722 882*

2012 ‘YESS to Jobs (Youth Employability & Skills Services)’ category winner: ng2

“Winning the SURF Award had a very positive impact on ng2. It is superb that what we have achieved in terms of building the business based on the delivery of high-quality services was recognised. This has greatly improved the reputation of ng2 and we have developed excellent working links outwith the ng homes housing association. It was great that the young individuals who are making successful and sustainable careers in ng2 were given the opportunity to participate in the SURF Awards ceremony.



“The award has given us even more determination to keep working toward delivering real sustainable long-term career opportunities for the people of north Glasgow. In 2013 we have continued to grow; we currently employ a total of 75 people. We have developed our range of services and we have added posts beyond commercial contracts to include positions in climate challenge, recycling, and energy efficiency. We have developed and supported adult apprenticeships for three of our original employees and they are currently attending day-release at college. This is all further proof that ng2 continues to make a difference to people’s lives, and we will continue to look at every opportunity to further improve local employability prospects.”

*John Devine, Head of Regeneration, ng homes.
Web: <http://www.ng2works.com> Tel: 0141 630 4277*

“In these hard times, we are all keen to make the most of existing assets and successful initiatives. Every year, the SURF Awards highlight how much great work is already being done in community regeneration all over Scotland. Sustaining and sharing that success is essential, both economically and socially.”



Andy Milne,
Chief Executive, SURF



As Scotland's independent regeneration network, SURF's overall objective is to improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Scotland's disadvantaged communities.

SURF is the primary arena for debate on community regeneration in Scotland. It acts as a channel for information, consultation and policy proposals, based on the knowledge and experience of its extensive membership and wider connections.

SURF network activity includes seminars, conferences, policy exchanges, annual awards for best practice and the distribution of information and publications.

This all provides a truly independent network to explore current practice, experience and knowledge. We use what we learn to positively influence the development of more successful regeneration policy and practice.

SURF was established in 1992 as a not-for-profit social enterprise. It is directed by a board of voluntary directors drawn from its extensive membership.

We have a database of over 3000 regeneration contacts and a membership of over 250 organisations from all sectors across Scotland.

SURF members range in size from small community groups to large private companies and also include: local authorities, housing associations, health boards, academic institutions, professional bodies, voluntary organisations and charities.

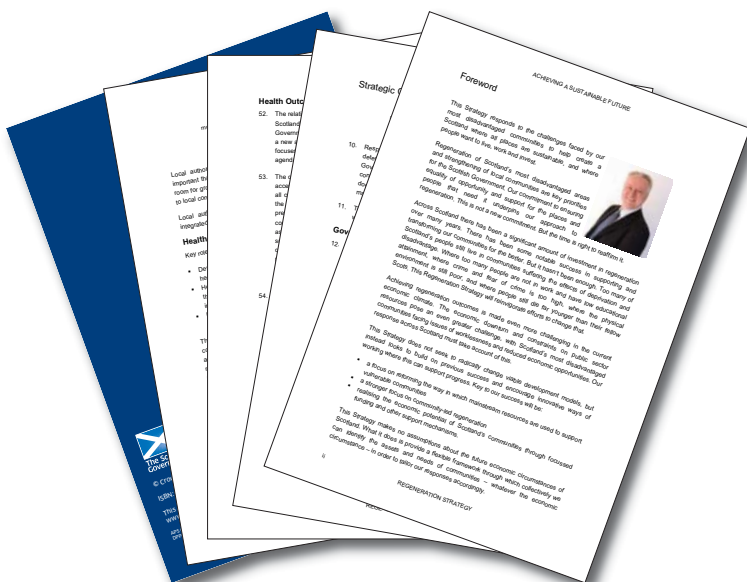
Further information on SURF's activities, and how to get more involved, is available on our website: www.scotregen.co.uk.



“These Awards continue to highlight the hard work and remarkable outcomes achieved by organisations whose aims are to regenerate their local communities. This is such an inspiring event for the Scottish Government as regeneration plays a crucial part in the improvement of our physical, economic and social landscape. I am therefore delighted to be announcing the winners at this year’s SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration. Congratulations should go to all who took part including, of course, the winners themselves.”



Margaret Burgess MSP,
Minister for
Housing and Welfare



Achieving A Sustainable Future

Regeneration is a key part of the Scottish Government’s vision for a Scotland and where the strengthening of local communities is one of our main priorities.

Our Regeneration Strategy, Achieving A Sustainable Future, was published in December 2011 and its aims remain as important today. It sets out our vision where all communities are sustainable and are places where people want to live and work.

This vision can only be delivered if regeneration is approached in a holistic way by addressing the economic, physical and social needs of our communities. These key elements cannot be delivered in isolation – each is connected and vital to success.

Our strategy also emphasises the importance of community-led regeneration, where local people deliver local change identifying what the issues and opportunities are in their own communities.

It is only when we work together and put communities first in the decision-making process, that we can achieve the many positive outcomes for Scotland and the people who live here. By strengthening our communities we can improve the quality of place, address worklessness and improve the general health and wellbeing of our most disadvantaged areas.

To find out more about the Scottish Government’s policies on community regeneration, visit:
www.scotland.gov.uk/regeneration

SURF is grateful to the Scottish Government, which funds the SURF Awards for Best Practice in Community Regeneration.



SURF Award Winners Study Visits

With support from the Scottish Government, SURF will be arranging a series of study visits and workshops in Spring 2014 to explore transferable lessons from the success of the five winning SURF Awards projects.

To receive information on these free informal learning exchange events, please sign up for our mailing list at the following link or contact the SURF events team on 0141 585 6850.

www.scotregen.co.uk/stay-informed

Building on Best Practice

SURF Award winning projects are provided with free consultancy support services to help them build on their success in 2014. SURF is grateful to the five partner organisations listed here for their generosity in providing these capacity building services.



Members and Sponsors

SURF is very grateful for all the support it gets from over 250 member organisations, and in particular from its 13 sponsoring members. Their backing provides the political, administrative and financial independence that helps SURF play a unique role in linking policy and practice across all of the sectors concerned with regenerating Scotland's communities.

